

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANA 02419 230518Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
-----051870 230523Z /10 R  
R 230400Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1618

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2419

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, YE  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION PLAN FOR YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

REF: STATE 143039

1. THE HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION PLAN FOR YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC IS A COMPREHENSIVE, WELL-DRAFTED DOCUMENT WHICH COVERS THE SUBJECT IN A BALANCED AND ACCURATE MANNER. WITH A FEW ADDITIONS THE EMBASSY FULLY ENDORSES ITS ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC.

2. IN THE LAST LINE OF PARA 2 WHICH BEGINS WITH THE PHRASE "FOREIGN CHRISTIANS ARE ALSO ALLOWED" THE SENTENCE SHOULD CONTINUE "AND CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES ARE PERMITTED TO TO WORK OPENLY IN A PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY IN SUCH ENDEAVORS AS HOSPITALS AND CLINICS. PROSELYTIZATION, HOWEVER, IS FORBIDDEN BY KORANIC LAW".

3. WITH REGARD TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN, THE EMBASSY PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: "MOST WOMEN IN YEMEN CONTINUE TO LEAD A TRADITIONAL AND RESTRICTED EXISTENCE, NONETHELESS, COMPARED WITH SOME OTHER NEIGHBORING MUSLIM COUNTRIES, THEIR FREEDOM IS RELATIVELY GREATER. AT THE SAME TIME GLIMMERINGS OF CHANGES IN THEIR OVER-ALL STATUS ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO APPEAR. (WOMEN ATTEND SANA UNIVERSITY WITH MALE STUDENTS AND ARE BEING INCREASINGLY EMPLOYED IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.)

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ALTHOUGH THE ROAD FOR WOMEN IN YEMEN WILL BE A LONG AND ARDUOUS ONE, THE YARG IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THEIR STATUS AND WILL DO SO, AS LONG AS IT CAN AVOID AN OPEN CONFRONTATION WITH THE POWERFUL CONSERVATIVE AND RELIGIOUS FORCES IN THIS STILL-TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.

4. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED BY  
REFTEL ARE REASONABLE AND "DO-ABLE" BUT PROPOSES THE  
FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING WOMEN.  
"EMASSY AND SUG SHOULD CONTINUE DISCREETLY TO ENCOURAGE  
AND ADVISE THE YARG TO AVAIL ITSELF OF THE TALENTS OF ITS  
FEMALE CITIZENS; IN PARTICULAR THE USG SHOULD TRY WHENEVER  
POSSIBLE TO ASSURE THAT YEMENI WOMEN ARE GIVEN AMPLE  
OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM US SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER  
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE USG UNDER ANY OF  
ITS AID PROGRAMS TO YEMEN.  
SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009